GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
IMPACT OF DELAYED MONSOON
Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delay in monsoon has adversely affected the sowing of Kharif crops in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the crops worst affected;

(c) whether the lack of moisture is likely to affect the ensuing Rabi crop also;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering to work out any contingency plan to overcome these problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The behavior of monsoon was erratic in the month of June 2005 and at the All India level the cumulative rainfall from lst June to 29th June was 20% less than the normal. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 13th July, 2005 at the All India level was 1% more than the normal. Cumulative rainfall was excess/normal in 28 Meteorological Sub-Divisions (MSD) out of the 36 MSDs in the country.

The delayed onset of south-west monsoon has affected sowing activities. As per the reports considered by the Crop Weather Watch Group of Ministry of Agriculture in its meeting held on 18.07.2005, the status of cultivation of crops in kharif 2005-06 as compared to the corresponding period of 2004-05 is as follows:

(lakh hectares)

Crop/Year	2005-06	2004-05
Rice	90.64	122.32
Coarse Cereals	121.67	116.51
Pulses#	32.59	50.79
Oilseeds#	84.30	100.73
Cotton	51.58	59.81
Sugarcane	40.85	37.49
Jute	7.88	7.69

As on 15.07.2005

However, the sowing operations have accelerated with steady arrival of monsoon and it is expected that the area under crops will improve in the coming weeks. (lakh hectares) (c) to (e): The rabi crops are raised on receding moisture conservation. The soil moisture storage from September onwards will become critical for rabi crop survival. An evaluation will have to be undertaken at the end of the southwest monsoon season.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Agricultural Universities and other organizations have brought out contingency plans for different regions of the Country. These plans will be put into action as and when the need arises.